

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 AGR-20 AID-20 PA-04 PRS-01 L-03

HEW-08 DODE-00 IGA-02 DRC-01 H-03 /168 W

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R 120925Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5047

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH MFA OFFICIAL ON OPIUM

BAN RESCISSION

REF: A. ANKARA 5353; B. ANKARA 5237; C. ANKARA 5397;

D. ANKARA 5372

SUMMARY: ON JULY 11 WORKING LEVEL FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL QUERIED US ABOUT REACTION IN US TO TURK DECISION TO LIFT OPIUM POPPY BAN, DESCRIBED TENTATIVE IDEAS BEING CONSIDERED TO CONTROL NEXT OPIUM POPPY CROP, ASKED US TO UNDERSTAND POLITICAL REASONS FOR DECISION, AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF US ASSISTANCE ON CONTROL. WE RESPONDED BY EMPHASIZING EXTREME SERIOUSNESS OF GOT DECISION TO RESCIND BAN. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING JULY 11 CALL BY EMBASSY OFFICER, OMER AKBEL, SECTION CHIEF IN MFA'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (WHICH HANDLES FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF OPIUM QUESTION), ASKED ABOUT REACTION IN US TO TURK OPIUM BAN RESCISSION.

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EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT, AS AKBEL WAS DOUBTLESS AWARE

FROM REPORTING FROM HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND FROM PRESS, DECISION WAS CAUSING EXTREMELY GRAVE CONCERN IN US. HE NOTED THAT, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER DECISION TO LIFT BAN, CERTAINTY OF SUCH A REACTION HAD BEEN POINTED OUT EMPHATICALLY AND REPEATEDLY TO GOT. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT OUTCOME WILL BE.

2. AKBEL COUNTERED THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES HAD FAVORED LIFTING BAN AND THEREFORE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE THIS STEP. HE ASKED WHY CERTAIN US CONGRESSMEN WERE MAKING DELIBERATELY ANTI-TURKISH STATEMENTS. EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US CONGRESS WAS NOT REACTING AGAINST TURKSY AS SUCH BUT AGAINST GOT DECISION TO RESCIND BAN.

3. AKBEL THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT THE FOLLOWING IDEAS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR CONTROLLING OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN SEVEN PROVINCES WHERE PLANTING HAD BEEN PERMITTED. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS STILL VERY TENTATIVE, "UNOFFICIAL" INFORMATION. DRAFT CONTROL PLAN, WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED TO USG AND OTHERS WHEN READY PER FONMIN GUNES' ASSURANCE TO AMBASSADOR MACOMBER ON JULY 5(REF A), WAS STILL BEING WORKED ON.

A. WITHIN CONTEXT OF JULY 1 DECREE GIVING PREFERENCE TO AREAS TRADITIONALLY SET ASIDE FOR OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION (REF B), LICNESES WOULD BE ISSUED IN SUCH A WAY THAT CULTIVATION AREA WOULD BE CONSOLIDATED IN ANY GIVEN LOCALITY.

B. GOT MIGHT APPROVE LICENSES FOR TOTAL ACERAGE IN ALL SEVEN PROVINCES UP TO 200,000 DECARES (ABOUT 49,420 ACRES). (COMMENT: IN 1971-72, TURKEY'S LAST OPIUM PLANTING SEASON IN FOUR PROVINCES, LICNESES WERE ISSUED FOR 217,613 DECARES. OF THESE, 68,598 DECARES WERE PLANTED AND 63,834 HARVESTED.)

C. POLICE CONTROL TEAMS WOULD CHECK EVERY POPPY AREA FOUR TIMES DURING GROWING SEASON, AND WOULD ROTATE FROM ONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER TO PREVENT CORRUPTION. 1971 OPIUM LICNESING AND CONTROL LAW AND RELEVANT DECREES WOULD BE ENFORCED TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

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4. EMBASSY OFFICER, NOTING THAT 1971 OPIUM LICENSING AND CONTROL LAW REQUIRED DETERMINATION OF PLANTING REGIONS ON BASIS, INTER ALIA, OF EXPORT POSSIBILITIES (REF C), ASKED WHAT WAS BASIS FOR CONSIDERING AREA OF 200,000 DECARES. DID GOT HAVE PARTICULAR OPIUM EXPORT FIGURE IN MIND? AKBEL REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW.

5. WHEN ASKED WHETHER GOT ENVISAGED CONSTRUCTION OF EITHER AN ALKALOID PLANT TO PROCESS RAW OPIUM GUM OR A STRAW PROCESSING PLANT, AKBEL STATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A STEP FOR THE NEXT HARVEST. TIME DID NOT PERMIT. HE SAID.

6. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUERY, AKBEL REMARKED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHEN A CND EXPERT FROM GENEVA WOULD ARRIVE IN TURKEY TO ADVISE ON A CONTROL SYSTEM (REF A AND PARA 7, REF D).

7 AKBEL CONCLUDED WITH PELA FOR US UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL REASONS GOT HAD TO RESCIND BAN AND ESPECIALLY FOR US ASSISTANCE IN HELPING CONTROL NEXT OPIUM POPPY CROP. TURKEY, HR REMARKED, WANTED NEITHER MONEY NOR EQUIPMENT, BUT TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. GOT WILL PROCEED ALONE IF NECESSARY WITH ITS OWN CONTROL ARRANGMENTS, BUT APPRECIATED CAPABILITY OF US AND UN IN THIS FIELD. ONCE DECISION TO PLANT HAD BEEN MADE, IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL, HE CONTENDED, FOR US AND OTHERS TO HELP IN PREVENTING ILLEGAL DIVERSION. EMBASSY OFFICER REITERATED THAT TURKEY'S DECISION TO RESCIND OPIUM BAN WAS CAUSING SERIOUS REACTION IN US AND HE COULD NOT PREDICT OUTCOME.
SPAIN

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